



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

TOWN HALL
1009 MAIN ST
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Aznavoorian, Chairman
Raymond Lisiecki, Vice Chair
Damin Sutherby, Clerk
Thomas L. Cooke
Bruce Panilaitis
Laurence Sanford
Robert Kocsmiersky

Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2014

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by David Aznavoorian, Chairman, at the Pike House. Present were Raymond Lisiecki, Damin Sutherby, Thomas Cooke, Larry Sanford, and Rob Kocsmiersky. Also present was Richard Montuori, Town Manager, Karen Kucala, Finance Director, and Melissa Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Also present was School Committee Member Dennis Francis.

2) FY15 Department Budget Review

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

Present were Charles Lyons, Superintendent, Melanie Hagman, Assistant Superintendent, and Shawsheen Tech School Committee member Michael Kelly.

Mr. Lyons provided the members with a copy of the presentation being given this evening on the FY15 Shawsheen Tech budget. Mr. Lyons noted that out of 450 districts, Shawsheen Tech is ranked 9th in attendance. The average daily attendance from 2013 to present is 97.1% and 98.2% graduate within four years; which is higher than the State average of 85.0%.

Mr. Lyons noted that from FY09 to FY13, Shawsheen Valley Technical's per pupil expenditures have increased only 3.5%. During the same time period, local school districts increased expenditures per pupil from a low of 15.7% in Bedford to a high of 35.9% in Wilmington. Shawsheen Technical's net school spending as compared to foundation is at 111% of foundation, lower than all local districts as compared to their foundation budgets. Source: Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

Mr. Lyons noted that overall enrollment at the Shawsheen Tech has increased 13.39 %; however, Tewksbury's enrollment has decreased 20.04%. Tewksbury receives an additional \$2,787,941 in State Aid. Mr. Lyons noted that this could decrease due to the 20% decrease in enrollment. The assessment was not impacted as greatly as there was also a decrease in enrollment at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

Mr. Lisiecki asked about the school choice for Nashoba Tech and Mr. Lyons explained that in 1991 a School Choice law was passed where if a school wanted to accept an out of district student to their school; the sending school loses 5%. The assumption must be budgeted for or there could be a deficit. If a Tewksbury student at the Shawsheen Tech goes to another vocational school, the Shawsheen Tech provides the funding and now the Town of Tewksbury. Mr. Lisiecki asked if the Shawsheen Tech accepts out of district students and Mr. Lyons explained that they do not as they are not a “choice school” and noted that Minuteman Tech and Nashoba Tech are not “choice schools” either.

Mr. Cooke requested a chart on the money spent at the Shawsheen Tech compared to other vocational schools in the area and inquired about the qualifications for the three new positions being added. Mr. Lyons noted that the average teacher in Massachusetts makes \$71,000.

Mr. Panilaitis referenced slide 16 of the presentation and noted that he would prefer to see a program breakdown rather than a school breakdown. Mr. Lyons noted he will look into this.

Mr. Aznavoorian requested a summary of which programs the Tewksbury students are enrolled in. Mr. Lyons noted that he will provide this information and explained that only a certain number of students are accepted into a program; if 60 wanted electrical only 26 would be accepted to ensure job placement.

Mr. Lyons, Ms. Hagman, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Francis left the meeting.

Parks and Recreation

MOTION: Mr. Cooke made the motion to reconsider the Town Manager’s recommended FY15 Parks and Recreation budget; seconded by Mr. Sutherby and the motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Montuori explained that the bid for cutting the fields has been received and a reduction was reflected.

MOTION: Mr. Lisiecki made the motion to approve the Town Manager’s recommended FY15 Parks and Recreation budget in the amount of \$135,375; seconded by Mr. Panilaitis and the motion carried 7-0.

Council on Aging

Mr. Montuori noted that the new COA Director is expected to start Monday. The salary for the director’s position is \$63,648.

MOTION: Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the Town Manager’s recommended FY15 Council on Aging budget in the amount of \$224,815; seconded by Mr. Lisiecki and the motion carried 7-0.

Engineering (DPW)

Mr. Montuori noted that a new town engineer has been hired. The salary is slightly higher than anticipated. The difference will be made up by reducing the hours for an intern.

MOTION: Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the Town Manager's recommended FY15 Engineering (DPW) budget in the amount of \$97,183; seconded by Mr. Panilaitis and the motion carried 7-0.

Community Development

Mr. Montuori noted that no changes have been made to the Community Development budget or the Building Department budget.

MOTION: Mr. Panilaitis made the motion to approve the Town Manager's recommended FY15 Community Development budget in the amount of \$266,146; seconded by Mr. Cooke and the motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Mr. Panilaitis made the motion to approve the Town Manager's recommended FY15 Building Department budget in the amount of \$249,543; seconded by Mr. Lisiecki and the motion carried 7-0.

Assessor

Mr. Montuori noted that a property reviewer has been hired at a higher salary than what was originally projected. The new salary will be \$43,675.

MOTION: Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the Town Manager's recommended FY15 Assessor budget in the amount of \$265,287; seconded by Mr. Lisiecki and the motion carried 7-0.

3) Town Manager and Finance Director Reports

Lateral Transfers

No.	Amount	From	To	Reason
24	\$14,357.85	Board of Health Regular Salaries	Board of Health Temporary Part Time	This transfer will partly cover a shortage in Temporary Part Time due to the permanent sanitarian being out on extended leave.

Mr. Montuori noted that the sanitarian has been out on worker's compensation for almost one year with a neck and back injury and has filed for disability retirement.

MOTION: Mr. Sutherby made the motion to approve Lateral Transfer No. 24 in the amount of \$14,357.85; seconded by Mr. Lisiecki and the motion carried 7-0.

4) Committee Member Reports

High School Building Committee

Mr. Cooke noted that the HS Building Committee also met this evening to pay bills and address some punch list items.

5) Approval of Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes presented for approval.

6) Future Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 10, 2014	7:00 p.m. Pike House
Thursday, April 17, 2014	7:00 p.m. Pike House
Wednesday, April 23, 2014	7:00 p.m. Pike House

8:27 p.m. Mr. Sutherby left and did not return.

Mr. Aznavoorian thanked Mr. Panilaitis for his service on the Finance Committee and wished him much success with the Board of Selectmen.

Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Cooke made the motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Sanford and the motion carried 6-0.

Approved: June 19, 2014

Documents Presented and/or Discussed
April 3, 2014

- 1) Town Manager's Recommended FY15 Budget
A copy can be found at the Finance Department or with the Town Manager
- 2) FY15 Shawsheen Valley Regional Technical Vocational High School budget
A copy can be found with the Town Manager or the Shawsheen Tech School Committee
- 3) Lateral Transfer Number 24
A copy can be found with the Finance Department